

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

Presents

"I AM AN AMERICAN"

A Musical Hall of Fame

(36th Annual STANDARD SCHOOL BROADCAST course)

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PROGRAM # 3

"BENJAMIN FRANKLIN"

OCTOBER 31, 1963

MUSIC (T):	SIGNATURE THEME (HAUG-DRAGON)	T 1743-1:01
	(ORCHESTRA)	R-47 B-
	MAIN THEME UP FULL FOR :27, THEN TO BACKGROUND & CONCLUDE	
	UNDER FOLLOWING SCRIPT.	

ANNOUNCER: "I Am an American" -- A Musical Hall of Fame -- presented as a public service by the Standard Oil Company of California. Each week at this time we recall the life of an outstanding individual who has been honored by The Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University. Through music and the stories of their lives, we reflect the ideals, intelligence, courage and achievements they contributed to our Nation's traditions -- a heritage that makes each of us proud to say "I Am an American."

SOUND (A): LOUD CLAP OF THUNDER IN CLEAR (:03), THEN TO B/G UNDER
JOHN UNTIL SOUND (a). CAP - :

JCHN: The year is 1752 - a summer thunderstorm breaks over 1
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Two men stand in a 2
meadow, watching a kite climb into a darkening sky. 3
One is Benjamin Franklin, then in his mid-forties. He 4
holds a hemp kite string with a key tied to its end. 5
The other man is William, his 21 year old son.... 6

SOUND (a): CLAP OF THUNDER IN CLEAR, THEN UNDER TO SOUND (aa).
SAME - SAME

BEN: You gave it a good start, William! Look how the kite 7
climbs into the middle of that dark cloud. If I'm 8
right, we shall soon know that lightning is electri- 9
city! 10

SOUND (aa): CLAP OF THUNDER IN CLEAR (:02), THEN UNDER UNTIL FADED
OUT ON CUE IN JOHN'S SPEECH. SAME - SAME

WILLIAM: Look, Sir, the threads on the kite string are standing 11
straight-up - as though they're moved by an unseen 12
force! 13

BEN: They are, William. Electricity - electricity from the 14
lightning is passing down the string to this key. 15
I'll touch it. (SLIGHT GASP) The key was charged 16
with electricity! I felt a shock! (FOLLOWING IS UNDER 17
JOHN'S SPEECH UNTIL FADED) Quick, let's get out of 18
this rain! We shall have to run - the shed, William - 19
run to the shed! I must keep the kite flying - keep 20
it in the air. Look how the lightning plays about it. 21
See? Quick, up on the porch - I'll handle the kite. 22
I have it - there! 23

JOHN: (OVER PRECEEDING LINES 15 THROUGH 20) - so, Franklin 1
proved lightning was electricity. The experiment could 2
have killed Ben Franklin, depriving America of one of 3
its most brilliant men. Inventor, scientist, states- 4
man, writer and publisher, Franklin was a many-sided 5
genius. 6

SOUND: VOICES & THUNDER, WHICH HAVE BEEN SLOWLY FADING SINCE
JOHN'S SPEECH, ARE NOW OUT.

JOHN: Stan Jones has composed a song about this dramatic 7
experiment with a kite. Mason Williams and a male trio 8
sing A Key on the String of a Kite. 9

MUSIC (1): A KEY ON THE STRING OF A KITE (JONES) T 3253 - 1:39
(M. WILLIAMS & TRIO) R- B-

JOHN: Our story of Benjamin Franklin begins in Boston, 10
Massachusetts, on January 17, 1706, the year he was 11
born. He was the 10th of 17 children. His father, 12
Josiah, was a candlemaker who had come to the American 13
colonies from England. He was a religious man and - as 14
was the custom - he gave one-tenth of what was his to 15
the church. Since Ben was his tenth child, it was 16
decided that he would be a minister. However, there 17
was no money to educate him, so little Ben was put to 18
work making candles. He disliked this job. He wanted 19
to be a sailor, like one of his older brothers, but his 20
father wouldn't hear of it. He felt Ben should learn 21
a trade, as James, another older brother, had done. 22
James owned a printing shop. He agreed to take Ben as 23
an apprentice, or helper. Ben would get his board and 24

JOHN:
Cont'd.

room until he was 21, but - as was the custom - no wages.1.
So, barely in his teens, Ben learned to set type and 2
print. He had always been a great reader and the shop 3
printed many books. The brothers often quarreled, but 4
Ben became James's best worker. In his spare time, Ben 5
could watch the ships sail from Boston harbor to the 6
lands he longed to visit. The sailors often sang sea 7
shanties, such as the one our baritone George Alexander 8
sings now. The Boston-Come-All-Ye. 9

MUSIC (2): THE-BOSTON-COME-ALL-YE (SEA SHANTY)	T 2084 - 1:57
(G.ALEXANDER & ENS.)	R- B-

JOHN: Ben wanted to be a writer. He longed to write for the 10
newspaper his brother printed, but James laughed at the 11
idea of a 16-year-old writing for his paper. So Ben 12
wrote letters to the newspaper - and signed them Silence 13
Dogood. Soon, all Boston was talking about the letters 14
and commenting on Silence's opinions and her good sense. 15
When Ben confessed he was Silence, James was not amused. 16
They were quarreling more often now, so Ben decided to 17
run away. At 17, he set out for New York and then Phil- 18
adelphia, where he worked as a printer's helper. Ben 19
like Philadelphia and "The City of Brotherly Love" liked 20
him. The next few years were filled with adventure. Ben 21
went to London, where he worked as a printer for almost 22
two years. When he returned to Philadelphia, he and a 23
friend started a printing shop. At 24, Ben owned the 24
shop - and married Deborah Read. They prospered and 25
their family grew. First came William, then Francis, 26

JOHN: then Sally. Francis died as a child. Ben began 1
 Cont'd. printing his own newspaper - then another was added and 2
 another. His wit and common sense were making him 3
 famous throughout the colonies. Ben made a success of 4
 nearly everything he tried - and he tried nearly every- 5
 thing. His interests were said to have included 6
 composing, too. We hear a Minuet from the Benjamin 7
Franklin Suite, transcribed by John Vincent. The music 8
 features a piano-like instrument called a harpsichord. 9

MUSIC (3): BENJ. FRANKLIN SUITE: MINUET #1 (Tr.J.Vincent)T 3396 - 1:15
 (ORCHESTRA w/HARPSICHORD) R- B-

JOHN: At 26, Franklin printed his own calendar, filling the 10
 spaces between the dates with bits of wit and wisdom. 11
 He called it "Poor Richard's Almanack." It contained 12
 such sayings as - 13

WILLIAM: "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, 14
 wealthy and wise." 15

DEBORAH: "One today is worth two tomorrows." 16

BEN: "Look ahead or you will find yourself behind." 17

JOHN: - and Ben did look ahead. He started a debating club 18
 that became the American Philosophical Society. He 19
 helped start the first public library in Philadelphia 20
 and a school that became the University of Pennsylvania. 21
 Electricity had recently been discovered and Ben 22
 studied its nature. His experiment with the kite 23
 proved that lightning was a big electric spark. He 24
 invented the lightning rod for the tops of buildings. 25
 When lightning struck the metal rod, its electricity 26

JOHN: traveled down a wire to be safely discharged in the 1
 Cont'd. ground. Through his experiments, Ben's fame spread to 2
 Europe. He was now the most important man in Pennsyl- 3
 vania. In 1755, during the French and Indian War 4
 against England's American colonies, Colonel Ben 5
 Franklin led an expedition to build forts along the 6
 frontier. The Shawnee Indians were one of the tribes 7
 fighting the colonists. The American composer Charles 8
 Sanford Skilton used their tribal themes to portray a 9
Shawnee Indian Hunting Dance. 10

MUSIC (4): SHAWNEE INDIAN HUNTING DANCE (SKILTON) T 3074 - 2:31
(ORCHESTRA) R- B-

JOHN: By 1757, Ben was a leader in the Pennsylvania Assembly. 11
 His good mind and strong character made other men 12
 respect him. Someone had to go to London to talk to 13
 the king and his advisors about unfair land taxation. 14
 Ben's fame in Europe made him the Assembly's choice to 15
 make the trip. 16

BEN: (UNDER LAST LINE OF ABOVE) - and the need now is very 17
 great. (IN CLEAR) Deborah, we shall all go. William 18
 is now 26. It's time he visited England. 19

DEBORAH: Ben, I can not go. Sally is only 14. The trip is long 20
 and hard - and more than a little dangerous for two 21
 women. We shall stay in Philadelphia. (BEAT) It's 22
 best, Ben. 23

WILLIAM: I will go with you, Father. You will need a companion. 24

BEN: Yes, William, come with me. Our stay will be short. 1
 (UNDER FIRST LINE OF JOHN'S FOLLOWING DIALOGUE) Now, we2
 shall have to arrange our passage on the first ship. 3

JOHN: - but Ben was wrong. He stayed five years. All London 4
 came to admire the wisdom and humor of this great man. 5
 Even the king's advisors listened. Gradually, he 6
 solved some of the colony's problems. The British 7
 realized Ben's growing power in the colonies. He could 8
 be a powerful friend should there be trouble. After 9
 Ben returned to Philadelphia, the British appointed 10
 William Governor of New Jersey. But Ben wasn't fooled 11
 by this flattery, but he was pleased. (BEAT) While in 12
 London, Franklin invented an improved version of a 13
 musical instrument he called the armonica. A-R-M-O-N- 14
I-C-A. It was a series of glass bowls, graduated in 15
 size and fitted one inside the other. They were 16
 mounted on a spindle or a rod and set in a trough of 17
 water. As the spindle turned, a player would touch the 18
 wet rims of the spinning glasses and produce a musical 19
 sound. Mozart and Beethoven composed for these musical 20
 glasses - and perhaps Ben did, too. Armonicas are rare 21
 today, but a string orchestra plays music Ben is said 22
 to have composed for his invention. The Caprice from 23
 the Benjamin Franklin Suite, transcribed by John 24
 Vincent. 25

MUSIC (5): BENJ. FRANKLIN SUITE: CAPRICE (TR.VINCENT) T 3243 - 1:20
 (STRING ORCHESTRA) R- B-

JOHN: When the French and Indian War ended in 1763, many Americans no longer wanted England's protection. They had helped the British drive the French from North America. Now they wanted to stand alone. They didn't want to pay taxes to a government in which they had no voice. They wanted to make their own laws. So, Franklin again went to London to speak for the colonists.

DEBORAH: (UNDER LAST LINE OF JOHN'S DIALOGUE) - we all miss you so. (IN CLEAR) I hope this letter finds you well, dear husband. You're almost 60, Ben. It's time you slowed down. (BEAT) Feeling here is strong about the new Stamp Act. People ask why we should pay the king taxes on things we make for ourselves and sell to each other. (UNDER JOHN'S NEXT DIALOGUE) To most, it seems unfair.

JOHN: Ben persuaded the British to end that tax, but - there were others. For 10 years he worked in England to keep the peace, but things grew worse at home. Colonists died in a clash with British soldiers in Boston. A British tax on tea resulted in the Boston Tea Party. Peace had become impossible. Before Ben could sail for home, he learned Deborah had died. When he arrived in Philadelphia in May, 1775, the American Revolution had begun. He met with Patrick Henry, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other patriots to help write the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1775, in Philadelphia's State House, it was adopted by Congress. The Declaration announced that the 13 colonies had become an independent new nation - the United States of America.

SOUND (B): LIBERTY BELL (MOCK) IN CLEAR FOR :03, THEN TO B/G, MIXED
w/SHOUTS & CROWD SOUNDS UNTIL OUT ON CUE.

JOHN: When it was read in State House Square, cheers greeted 1
its stirring words. The State House's bell rang loud 2
and clear over their voices. War was ahead, but freedom 3
was in the air! (BEAT) (BELL OUT IN SLOW FADE) Years 4
later, John Philip Sousa wrote a march honoring the 5
bell that rang on that patriotic occasion. The Liberty 6
Bell. 7

MUSIC (6): THE LIBERTY BELL: MARCH (SOUSA) T 819 - 2:26
(ORCH.) R-28 B-

JOHN: Ben was 70 years old now. The war raged on. Washing- 8
ton commanded the small, ragged armies that faced the 9
might of England. Help would have to come from Europe. 10
France had long been England's enemy - perhaps the 11
French would help. So, Ben sailed for France in the 12
autumn of 1776. He was a strange-looking man in elegant 13
Paris. He wore a plain brown suit and a fur cap pulled 14
down over his long, grey hair. Yet, his simplicity was 15
fitting for a man who represented a democratic people. 16
At first, the French government wasn't willing to risk 17
a war with England by helping the Americans openly. 18
Secretly, they supplied weapons and money. When 19
American troops won a decisive victory at Saratoga, 20
Ben finally convinced the French to enter the war. In 21
1778, France signed a treaty of alliance. This was the 22
turning point of the Revolution. Ben Franklin, 23
thousands of miles from the war, had won a major 24

JOHN: victory. (BEAT) Soon, French soldiers would hear 1
 Cont'd. the melody of Chester, a marching song of the Revolu- 2
 tion. It was written by William Billings, one of 3
 our earliest composers. Originally, Chester was a 4
 hymn. It is this version our tenor Raymond Manton 5
 sings now. 6

MUSIC (7):	CHESTER (BILLINGS)	T 1869 - 1:43
	(R. MANTON w/ORGAN)	R-50 B-

JOHN: When at last the Americans won the war, Ben stayed on 7
 in France to work out the peace treaty with England. 8
 At the age of 79 - old and tired - he sailed for home. 9
 But, back in Philadelphia, Ben's country still needed 10
 him. The United States needed new laws to govern it. 11
 His last great service was to help draft the Consti- 12
 tution of the United States, in 1787. Three years 13
 later, at the age of 84, he died, knowing his lifetime 14
 of service had helped make his country free. Ben 15
 Franklin was the only American who signed all four 16
 great documents of his time: The Declaration of 17
 Independence, the Treaty of Alliance with France, the 18
 Treaty of Peace with Great Britain and the Constitu- 19
 tion of the United States. (BEAT) The American 20
 Revolution and the French Revolution are often com- 21
 pared with each other. France's struggle began the 22
 year before Franklin died. His comment on the French 23
 Revolution is vital to this day: 24

BEN: "God grant that not only the love of liberty but a 25
 thorough knowledge of the rights of man may pervade 26
 all the nations of the earth....." 27

JOHN: - he then added that a philosopher, or a wise man, 1
 should be able to go anywhere in the world and say 2
 "This is my country." (BEAT) France won its freedom 3
 from tyranny to the music of La Carmagnole. We hear 4
 it now as a theme in the finale of La Rosiere Republi- 5
caine, by the French composer Andre Gretry. 6

MUSIC (8): LA ROSIERE REPUBLICAINE: FINALE (GRETRY) T 3395 - 1:01
 (ORCHESTRA) R- B-

ANNOUNCER: Events in the life of Benjamin Franklin have shown us 7
 the patriotism and responsibilities we assume in 8
 saying - "I Am an American." 9
 Featured on this program were Evangeline Baker, Philip 10
 Arthur and Berle Davis. Our soloists were folk 11
 singers Mason Williams and George Alexander and tenor 12
 Raymond Manton. Carmen Dragon conducted the orchestra. 13
 The program was written and produced by Willard S. 14
 Davis, Jr., under the supervision of Adrian Michaelis, 15
 Program Manager. 16
 The foregoing script was checked for accuracy by the 17
 Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York Uni- 18
 versity. The conversations and letters between 19
 characters were fictional. John Grover speaking. 20
 Join us next week when events in the life of Daniel 21
 Boone, frontiersman, remind us of the heritage behind 22
 the words - "I Am an America." 23

MUSIC (T): SIGNATURE THEME (HAUG-DRAGON) T 1740 - :57
(ORCHESTRA) R- B-
PRE-THEME IN B/G UNDER FOREGOING SCRIPT: THEME IN CLEAR,
UP FULL AND CONCLUDE BEFORE READING OF FOLLOWING SIGNOFF:

ANNOUNCER: "I Am an American" -- A Musical Hall of Fame - the 36th
Annual Series of the Standard School Broadcast - is
presented transcribed by the Standard Oil Company of
California.